60¢ U.K. 25p CAN. 75¢
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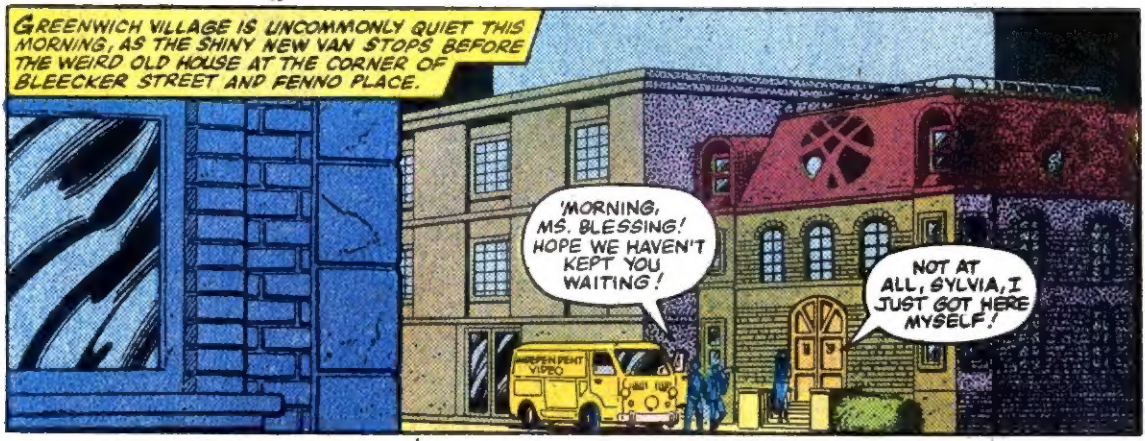
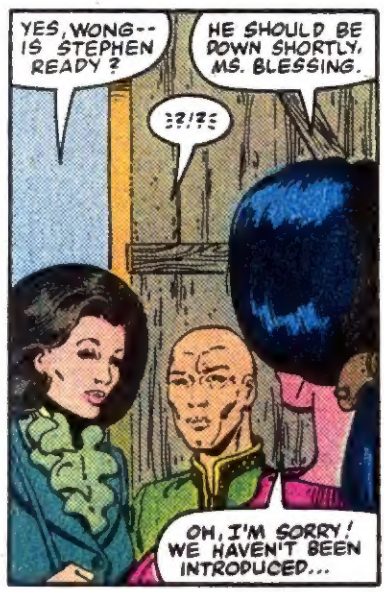
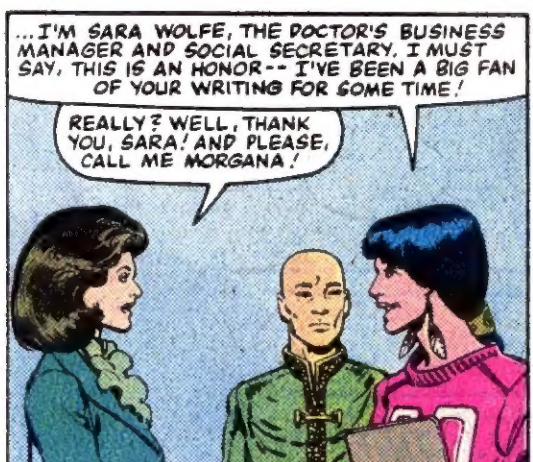
DOCTOR STRANGE®


GREENWICH VILLAGE IS UNCOMMONLY QUIET THIS MORNING, AS THE SHINY NEW VAN STOPS BEFORE THE WEIRD OLD HOUSE AT THE CORNER OF BLEECKER STREET AND FENNO PLACE.
'MORNING, MS. BLESSING! HOPE WE HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING!
NOT AT ALL, SYLVIA, I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF!
STEPHEN PEARL VIDEO




...I'M SARA WOLFE, THE DOCTOR'S BUSINESS MANAGER AND SOCIAL SECRETARY. I MUST SAY, THIS IS AN HONOR -- I'VE BEEN A BIG FAN OF YOUR WRITING FOR SOME TIME!
REALLY? WELL, THANK YOU, SARA! AND PLEASE, CALL ME MORGANA!

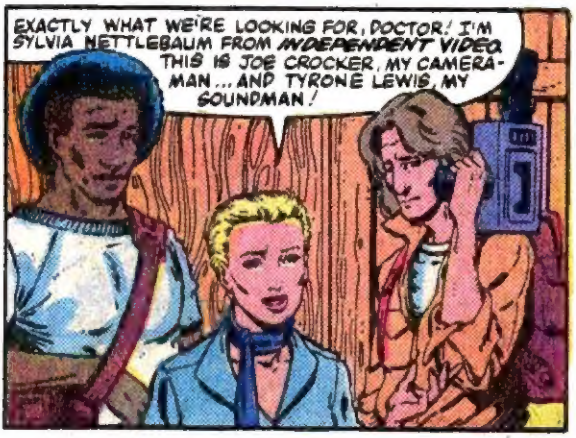
IT WON'T TAKE THE CREW LONG TO SET UP -- SO AS SOON AS STEPHEN SHOWS HIMSELF, WE CAN... GET... STARTED.
OH, MY!
THERE WILL BE NO DELAY, MORGANA --

DOCTOR STRANGE™ Vol. 1, No. 58, December, 1982. (U.S.P.S. 426-910) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published bi-monthly. Copyright© 1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $7.20 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. DOCTOR STRANGE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

--LET THE INTERVIEW BEGIN!
DOCTOR STRANGE IS READY!
A MYSTIC REBORN!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
ROGER STERN WRITER
PAUL SMITH PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN INKER
JIM NOVAK LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM, EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR SUPREME

MORGANA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE TREMBLING!
I...I'M NOT SURPRISED! YOU MAKE QUITE AN ENTRANCE!
AH!
I CONSIDERED DONNING MORE CONVENTIONAL GARB--

--BUT AS YOUR ASSOCIATES INTEND TO TAPE THIS INTERVIEW FOR TELEVISION, I THOUGHT A BIT OF FLASH WAS IN ORDER ...NO?


EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR, DOCTOR! I'M SYLVIA NETTLEBAUM FROM INDEPENDENT VIDEO. THIS IS JOE CROCKER, MY CAMERA-MAN ...AND TYRONE LEWIS, MY SOUNDMAN!

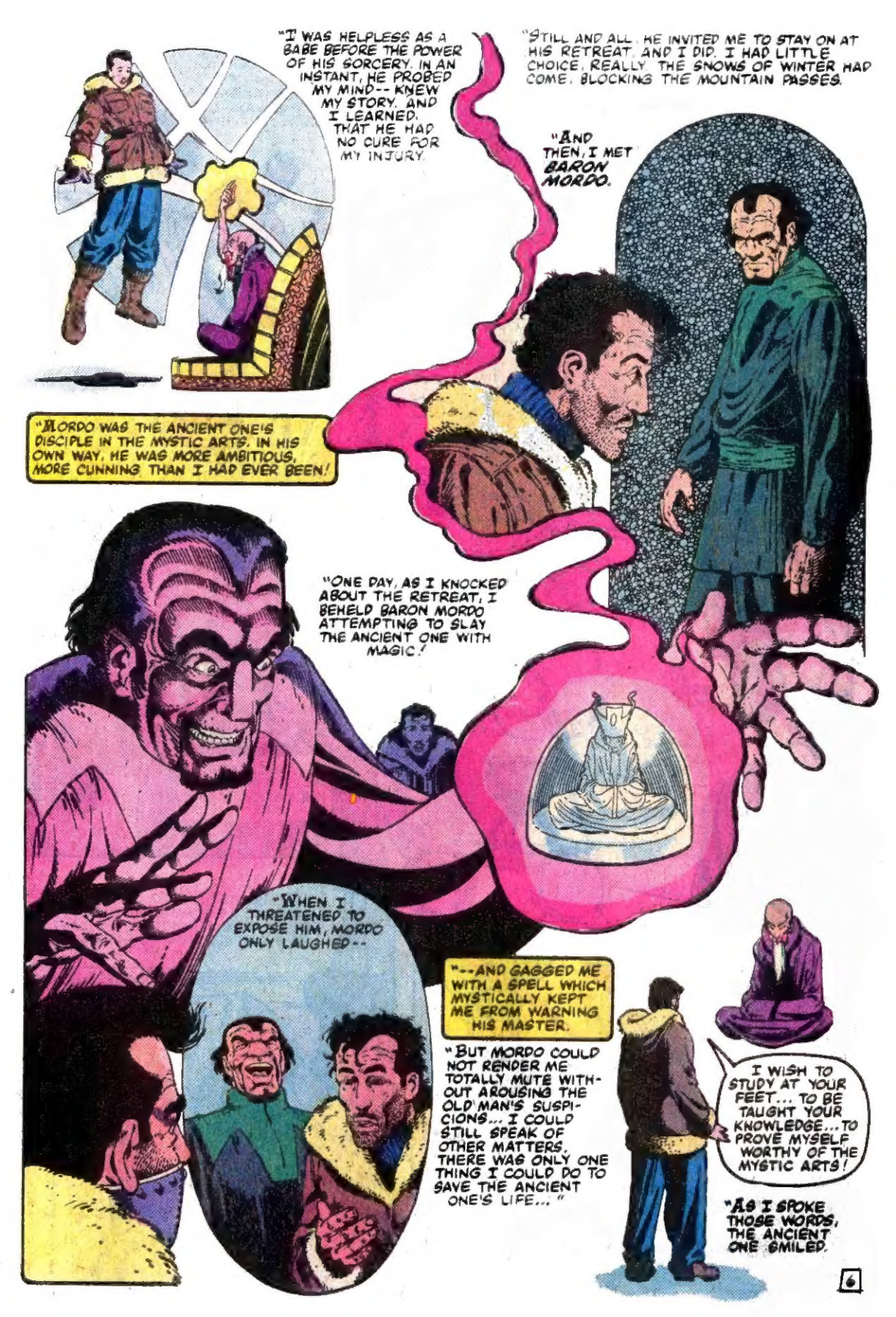
WE REALLY APPRECIATE THIS!
WE'RE JUST A SMALL VIDEO HOUSE, BUT WE STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF SELLING A SERIES ON OCCULT HISTORY TO ONE OF THE NEW CABLE OUTFITS, IF WE CAN PRODUCE A DECENT PILOT!
AN INTERVIEW WITH AN OCCULT EXPERT, SUCH AS YOURSELF, WAS MORE THAN WE'D HOPED FOR!
YES. SO MORGANA TOLD ME, AFTER SHE FIRST MET YOU. LET US ADJOURN TO THE DRAWING ROOM.

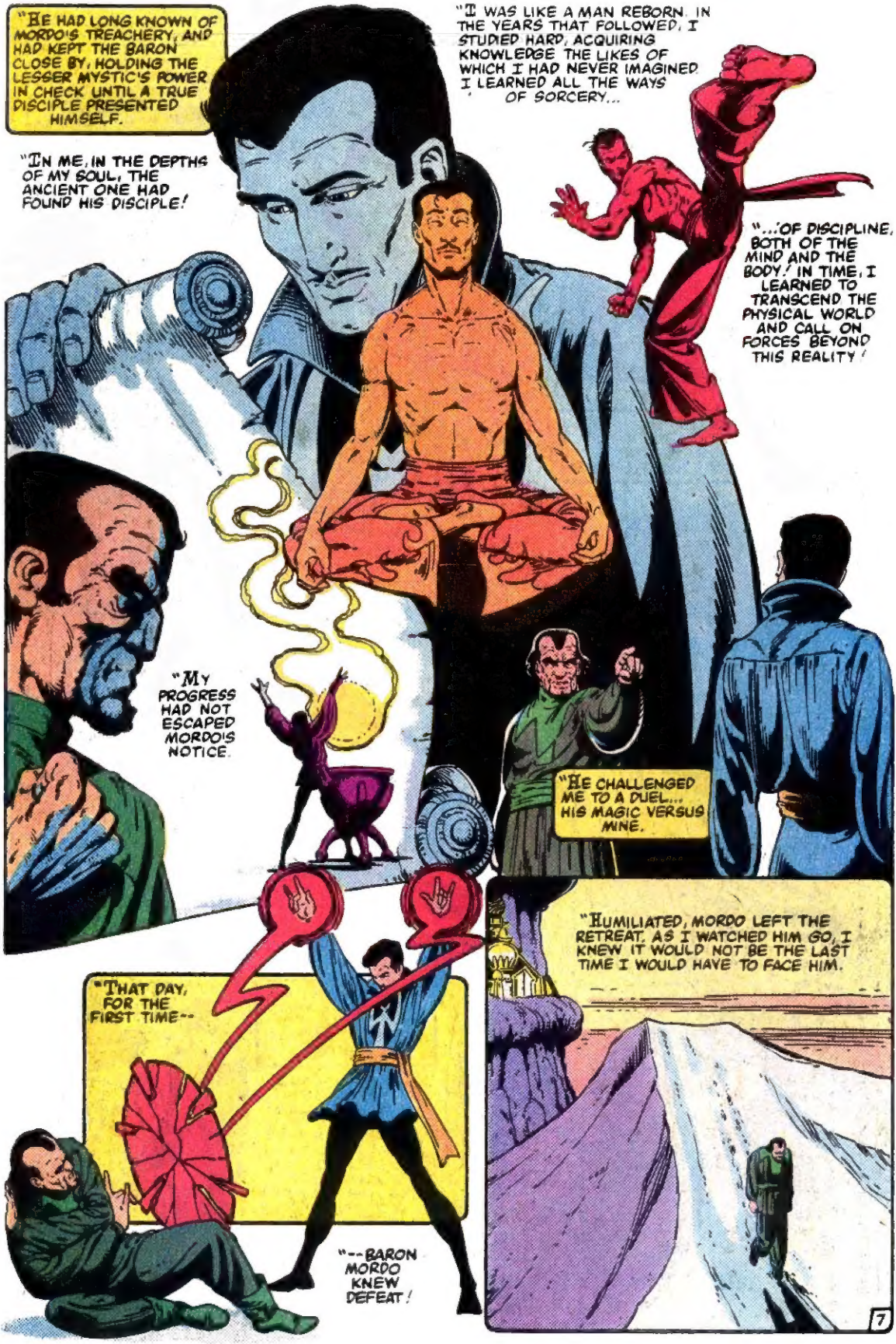
WONG, WHAT IS GOING ON? DOC HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO CAREFUL ABOUT KEEPING A LOW PROFILE ON HIS ACTIVITIES--
--WHY IS HE SUDDENLY LETTING A CAMERA CREW INTO HIS HOUSE? I KNOW HE'S DOING THE INTERVIEW AS A FAVOR TO MORGANA, BUT WHY THE BIG SHOW?
I DO NOT KNOW, SARAH THE MASTER USUALLY HAS GOOD REASONS FOR HIS ACTIONS, BUT THIS... TROUBLES ME.

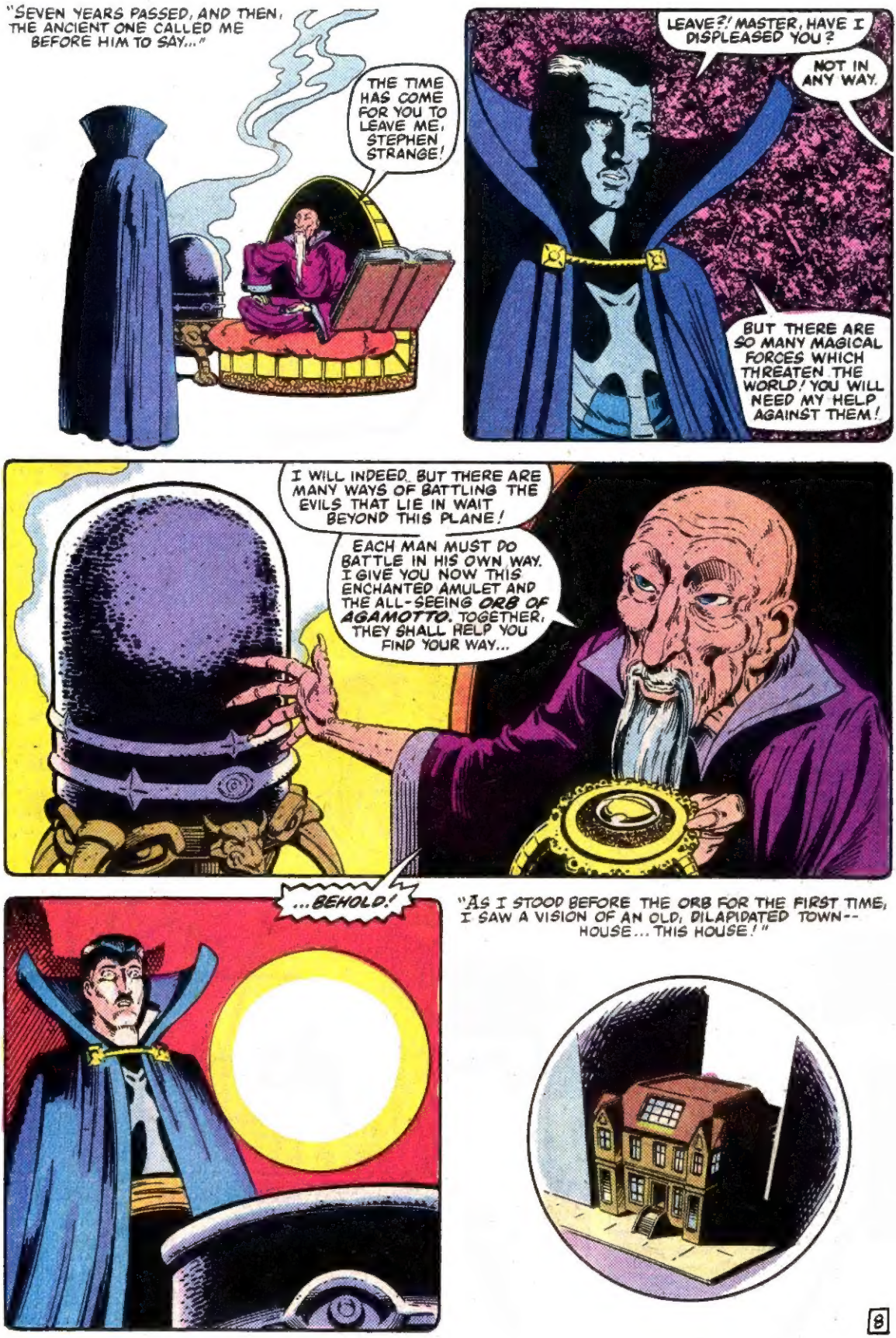
SHORTLY...
COMFORTABLE?
YES... VERY.
GOOD.
8

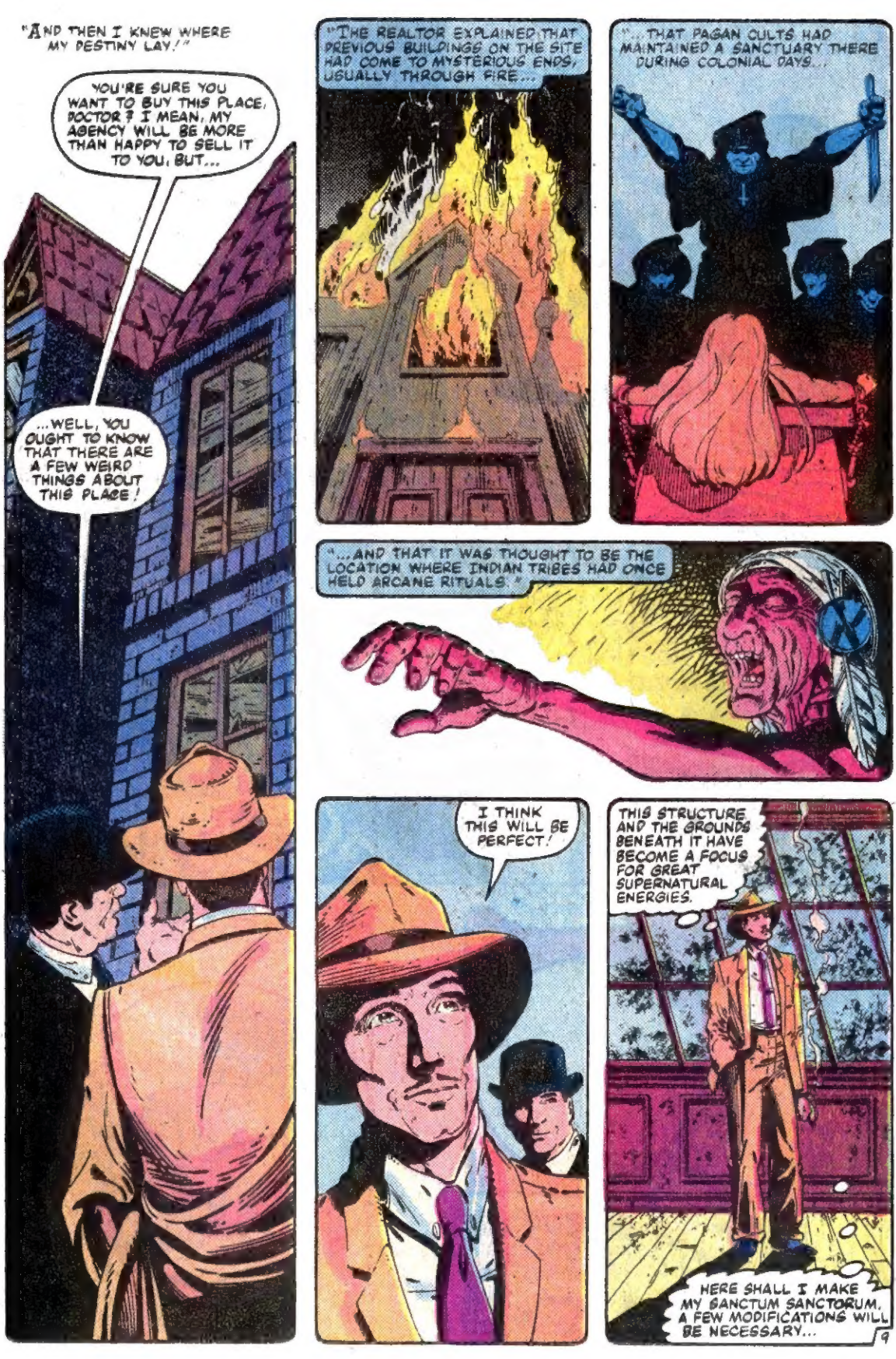
WONG WILL BRING US TEA IN A BIT. I'VE NEVER GIVEN AN INTERVIEW BEFORE--
--BUT I ASSUME THAT IT IS A THIRST-INDUCING PROCESS.
OH. UH... YES... IT IS.
WELL, THEN ... SHALL WE BEGIN?
SHEE-OOT! HE HUNG HIS CAPE IN MID-AIR... JUST AS SWEET AS YOU PLEASE!
JOEY, DID YOU--?
NOT TO WORRY, BOSS! IT'S ALL ON TAPE!
ALL RIGHT... I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD BEGIN WITH A LITTLE PERSONALITY PIECE. HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE MYSTIC ARTS, DOCTOR?
WERE YOU INTERESTED IN THE OCCULT AS A BOY?
HARDLY.
I'M AFRAID THAT FOR MUCH OF MY EARLY LIFE, I WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN THE MATERIAL WORLD...
4

"I WAS A SURGEON... ONE OF THE BEST, AND I KNEW IT! I FELT THAT I COULD DEPEND ON NO ONE BUT MYSELF, AND IT SHOWED.
"I WAS ARROGANT, SELF-RIGHTEOUS... EVEN RUTHLESS. AS MY SKILL AND FAME GREW, SO DID MY GREED. I BECAME MORE INTERESTED IN FEES THAN IN PATIENTS.
"THEN, ONE NIGHT MY CAREER WAS CUT SHORT. I LOST CONTROL OF MY SPORTS CAR ON A LONELY STRETCH OF WINDING COUNTRY ROAD. HOURS PASSED BEFORE I WAS FOUND.
"I SPENT A FORTUNE ON ATTEMPTED CURES, BUT NOTHING HELPED. I LOST ALL TRACK OF TIME... I BECAME LITTLE MORE THAN A HUMAN DERELICT.
"IN TIME I RECOVERED, BUT THE INJURY HAD BEEN DONE. I HAD SUSTAINED MINOR NERVE DAMAGE... JUST ENOUGH TO PREVENT ME FROM HOLDING A SCALPEL STEADY ENOUGH TO PERFORM SURGERY."
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T OPERATE, YOU CAN WORK AS A CONSULTANT... AS MY ASSISTANT!
STEPHEN STRANGE ASSISTS NOBODY!
"THEN, ONE DAY ON THE DOCKS, I HEARD TWO SAILORS TALKING ABOUT A TIBETAN MYSTIC WHO COULD CURE ANYTHING
"IT WAS MY ONLY HOPE. I SOLD THE LAST OF MY POSSESSIONS AND SET OUT TO FIND THIS MIRACLE WORKER. AND FINALLY, AFTER MONTHS OF TREKKING ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF THE HIMALAYAS, I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR...
"...THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT OF THE ANCIENT ONE!
5

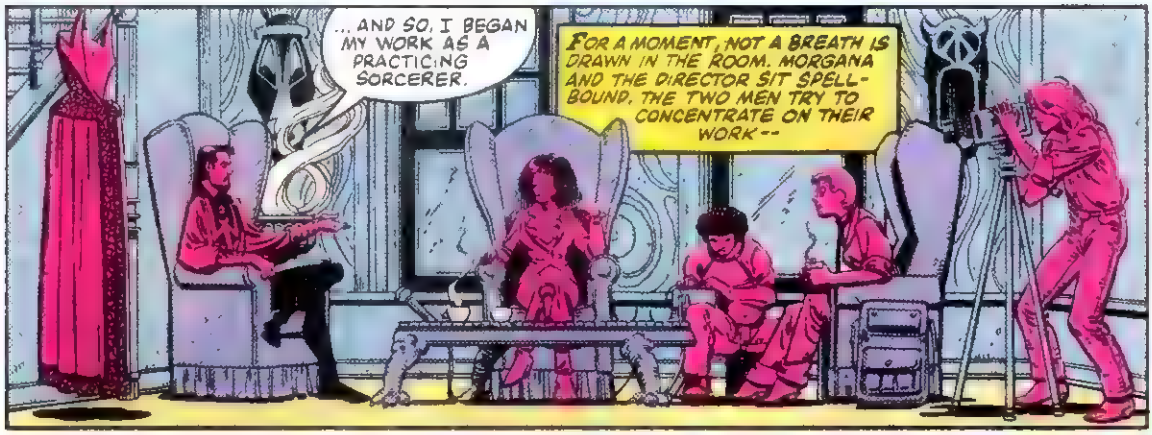

"I WAS HELPLESS AS A BABE BEFORE THE POWER OF HIS SORCERY. IN AN INSTANT, HE PROBED MY MIND-- KNEW MY STORY. AND I LEARNED. THAT HE HAD NO CURE FOR MY INJURY.
"STILL AND ALL, HE INVITED ME TO STAY ON AT HIS RETREAT. AND I DID. I HAD LITTLE CHOICE, REALLY. THE SNOWS OF WINTER HAD COME, BLOCKING THE MOUNTAIN PASSES.
"AND THEN, I MET BARON MORDO.
"MORDO WAS THE ANCIENT ONE'S DISCIPLE IN THE MYSTIC ARTS. IN HIS OWN WAY, HE WAS MORE AMBITIOUS, MORE CUNNING THAN I HAD EVER BEEN!
"ONE DAY, AS I KNOCKED ABOUT THE RETREAT, I BEHELD BARON MORDO ATTEMPTING TO SLAY THE ANCIENT ONE WITH MAGIC!
"WHEN I THREATENED TO EXPOSE HIM, MORDO ONLY LAUGHED--
"--AND GAGGED ME WITH A SPELL WHICH MYSTICALLY KEPT ME FROM WARNING HIS MASTER.
"BUT MORDO COULD NOT RENDER ME TOTALLY MUTE WITHOUT AROUSING THE OLD MAN'S SUSPICIONS... I COULD STILL SPEAK OF OTHER MATTERS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I COULD DO TO SAVE THE ANCIENT ONE'S LIFE... "
I WISH TO STUDY AT YOUR FEET... TO BE TAUGHT YOUR KNOWLEDGE... TO PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
"AS I SPOKE THOSE WORDS, THE ANCIENT ONE SMILED.
6


"He had long known of Mordo's treachery, and had kept the Baron close by, holding the lesser mystic's power in check until a true disciple presented himself.
"In me, in the depths of my soul, the Ancient One had found his disciple!
"I was like a man reborn. In the years that followed, I studied hard, acquiring knowledge the likes of which I had never imagined I learned all the ways of sorcery...
"...'of discipline, both of the mind and the body.' In time, I learned to transcend the physical world and call on forces beyond this reality!
"My progress had not escaped Mordo's notice.
"He challenged me to a duel... his magic versus mine.
"That day, for the first time--
"--Baron Mordo knew defeat!
"Humiliated, Mordo left the retreat. As I watched him go, I knew it would not be the last time I would have to face him.
7


"SEVEN YEARS PASSED, AND THEN, THE ANCIENT ONE CALLED ME BEFORE HIM TO SAY..."
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO LEAVE ME, STEPHEN STRANGE!
LEAVE?! MASTER, HAVE I DISPLEASED YOU?
NOT IN ANY WAY.
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY MAGICAL FORCES WHICH THREATEN THE WORLD! YOU WILL NEED MY HELP AGAINST THEM!
I WILL INDEED. BUT THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF BATTLING THE EVILS THAT LIE IN WAIT BEYOND THIS PLANE!
EACH MAN MUST DO BATTLE IN HIS OWN WAY. I GIVE YOU NOW THIS ENCHANTED AMULET AND THE ALL-SEEING ORB OF AGAMOTTO. TOGETHER, THEY SHALL HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY...
...BEHOLD!
"AS I STOOD BEFORE THE ORB FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW A VISION OF AN OLD, DILAPIDATED TOWN-- HOUSE... THIS HOUSE!"

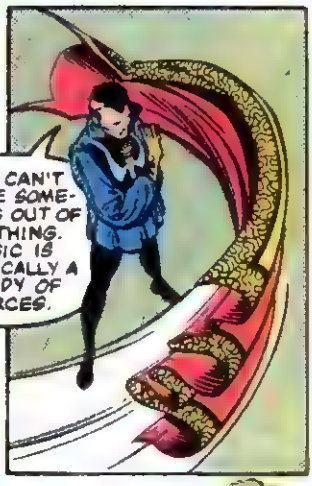

"AND THEN I KNEW WHERE MY DESTINY LAY!"
YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO BUY THIS PLACE, DOCTOR? I MEAN, MY AGENCY WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SELL IT TO YOU, BUT...
...WELL, YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE A FEW WEIRD THINGS ABOUT THIS PLACE!
"THE REALTOR EXPLAINED THAT PREVIOUS BUILDINGS ON THE SITE HAD COME TO MYSTERIOUS ENDS, USUALLY THROUGH FIRE...
"...THAT PAGAN CULTS HAD MAINTAINED A SANCTUARY THERE DURING COLONIAL DAYS...
"...AND THAT IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE LOCATION WHERE INDIAN TRIBES HAD ONCE HELD ARCANE RITUALS."
I THINK THIS WILL BE PERFECT!
THIS STRUCTURE AND THE GROUNDS BENEATH IT HAVE BECOME A FOCUS FOR GREAT SUPERNATURAL ENERGIES.
HERE SHALL I MAKE MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM. A FEW MODIFICATIONS WILL BE NECESSARY...

"SIX MONTHS LATER...
"...WHEN MY SANCTUM WAS COMPLETE..
"...THERE WAS A SUDDEN, PERSISTENT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR."
YES?
MASTER, I AM WONG.
DID THE CRAZY THREADS!
I AM TO BE YOUR MAN-SERVANT, TO SEE TO YOUR CARE AND COMFORT.
--AS MY FATHER, AND HIS FATHERS BEFORE HIM, CARED FOR THE ANCIENT ONE. THAT IS MY DESTINY.
YES... BY THE LIGHT OF MY AMULET, I SEE THAT THIS IS TRUE. VERY WELL, WONG--
--ENTER. BUT BE WARNED... THIS HOUSE IS MORE THAN IT SEEMS.
MASTER...
...I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF IT WERE NOT.

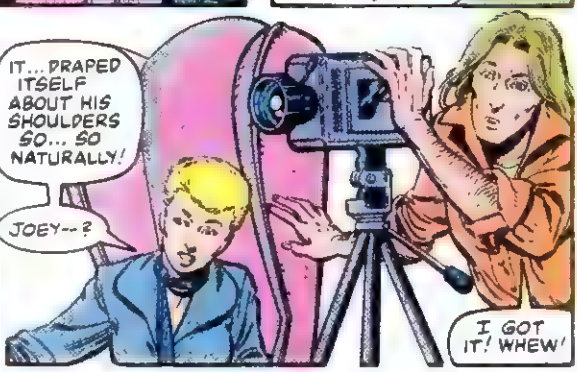

...AND SO, I BEGAN MY WORK AS A PRACTICING SORCERER.
FOR A MOMENT, NOT A BREATH IS DRAWN IN THE ROOM. MORGANA AND THE DIRECTOR SIT SPELL-BOUND, THE TWO MEN TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR WORK--

--AND, IN THE OUTER HALL...
WONG, WAS ALL OF THAT TRUE?!?
EVERY WORD. I NEVER DREAMED HE WOULD DISCLOSE SO MUCH!

THAT'S... FASCINATING! SO HOW... I MEAN... JUST WHAT CAN YOU DO?!
WELL..


...I CAN'T MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING. MAGIC IS BASICALLY A STUDY OF FORCES.

ONCE ONE KNOWS HOW TO CHANNEL THOSE FORCES, THOUGH, THE RESULTS CAN BE QUITE STRIKING--
--AS WITH MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION, FOR INSTANCE!


IT... DRAPED ITSELF ABOUT HIS SHOULDERS SO... SO NATURALLY!
JOEY--?
I GOT IT! WHEW!

THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE... THE ADVENTURES YOU'VE HAD... MUST HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE!

INCONCEIVABLE? EVEN THAT WORD SEEMS INADEQUATE! HOW DOES ONE DESCRIBE FOES SUCH AS--
--THE ASGARDIAN DEMI-GOD, LOKI--
--THE DREAD DORMAMMU--
--OR SILVER DAGGER!
AND YET, THE BAD HAS E'ER BEEN BALANCED BY THE GOOD. MY WORK HAS SHOWN ME THE FACE OF ETERNITY...
"... BROUGHT ME A STRANGE ALLY IN THE INCREDIBLE HULK...
"...AND GRANTED ME THE LOVE OF AN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL PRINCESS NAMED CLEA!"
CLEA.
YES, YOUR... DISCIPLE. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER TODAY. WHERE IS SHE?
GONE RETURNED TO THE DARK DIMENSION WHENCE SHE CAME
SHE LEFT ME THAT I MIGHT FIND A GREATER LOVE... A HUMAN LOVE. IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO ACCEPT HER LEAVE-TAKING AS BEING FOR THE BEST.
FOR DAYS, I GRIEVED OVER HER LOSS. IF THESE SO-CALLED VIDEO PEOPLE HAD ATTACKED ME THEN, THEY MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE DEFEATED ME
HUH? YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT US?
I BEG YOUR PARDON, DOCTOR. SURELY, YOU DON'T--?
HEH! MAYBE HE THINKS THE CAMERA CAPTURES HIS SOUL!
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD SO EASILY TRICK ME? I AM A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS--
12

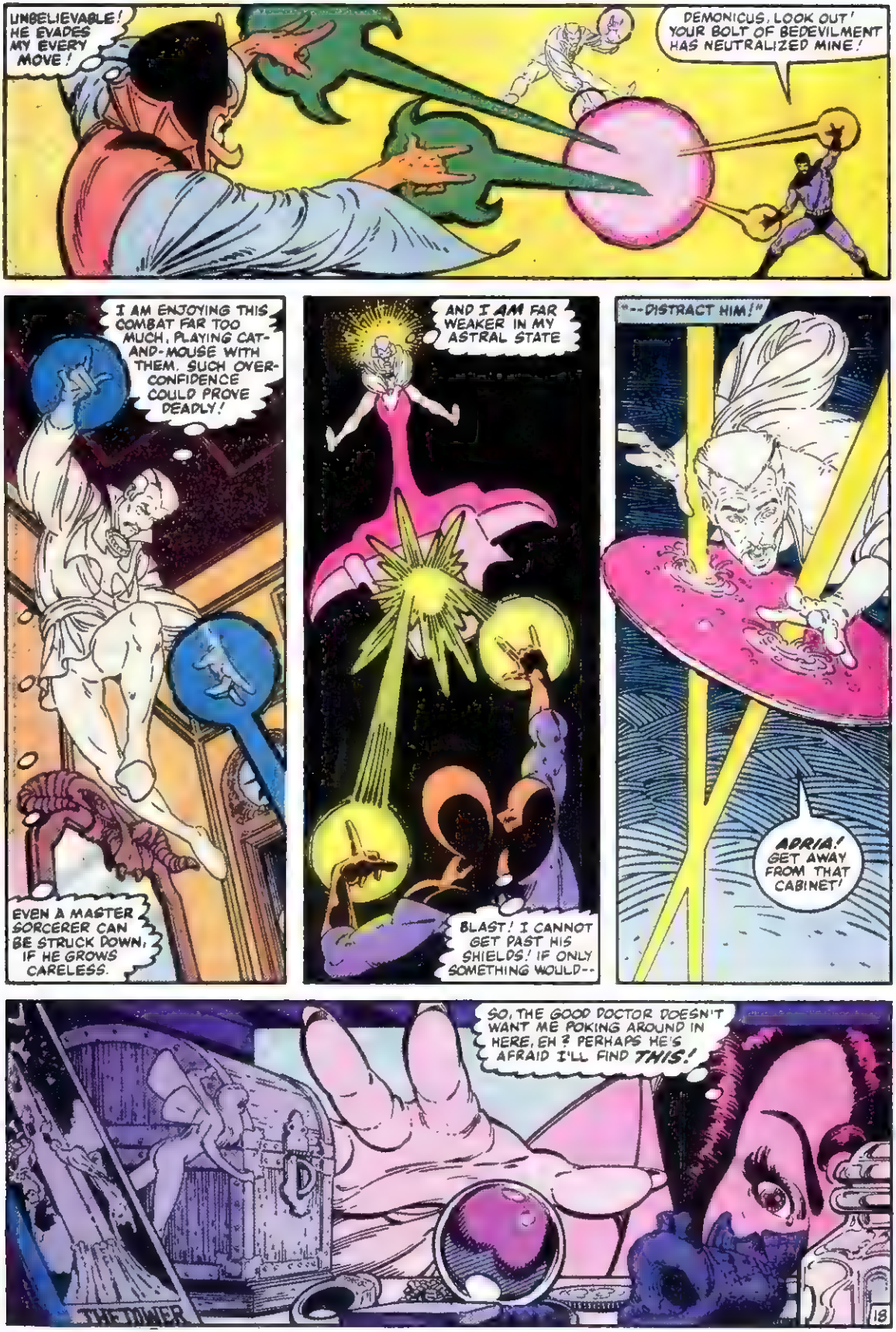
--AND I KNOW WHEN PRETENDERS ENTER MY HOME! BY THE ALL-SEEING LIGHT OF AGAMOTTO, SHALL YOU NOW STAND REVEALED!
DEMONICUS, YOU WHO FANCIED YOURSELF A DEMON
...ADRIA, EVER THE MYSTIC RINGLEADER..
...AND KAECILIUS--YOU THREE WHO WERE ONCE MINIONS OF BARON MORDO!
ADRIA, HE... HE KNEW IT WAS US ALL ALONG!
SILENCE, KAECILIUS!
YOU ARE AS OVER-CONFIDENT AS EVER DOCTOR. BUT YOUR BRAVADO DOES NOT FOOL ME!
IF YOU HAD TRULY KNOWN WHO WE WERE FROM THE START, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED US ENTRY! AND YOU CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD US EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PAST!
BUT I WOULD HAVE TOLD THREE ORDINARY MORTALS AND A TELEVISION AUDIENCE... IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, ADRIA?
THIS IS AS ABSURD AS YOUR BELIEF THAT I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING! AND AS FOR ALLOWING YOU TO ENTER--DON'T YOU RECALL HOW I SAID THE ANCIENT ONE HAD HELD BARON MORDO IN CHECK?
IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO HOLD A KNOWN EVIL WHERE ONE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON IT!
BAH! IT MATTERS NOT! ONCE I NEARLY BESTED YOU ON MY OWN!*
AND DEMONICUS DOES NOT STAND ALONE NOW!
PREPARE TO DIE!
*STRANGE TALES #128 --EDITORI-AL.

IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
SPLIT UP! WE MUST ESCAPE AND REGROUP!
HE CANNOT CATCH US ALL!
HOW CAN ANYONE HAVE STUDIED THE MYSTIC ARTS AS MUCH AS THEY--
--AND YET HAVE LEARNED SO LITTLE?
STEPHEN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I... I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW--!
BE AT PEACE, MORGANA. I KNEW OF THEIR PLOT TO ATTACK ME FROM THE MOMENT THEY HAD YOU ASK ME ABOUT THE INTERVIEW
THERE IS NO NEED TO BE FRIGHTENED.
B-BUT IF THEY ESCAPE, WON'T THEY TRY TO ATTACK YOU AGAIN?
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

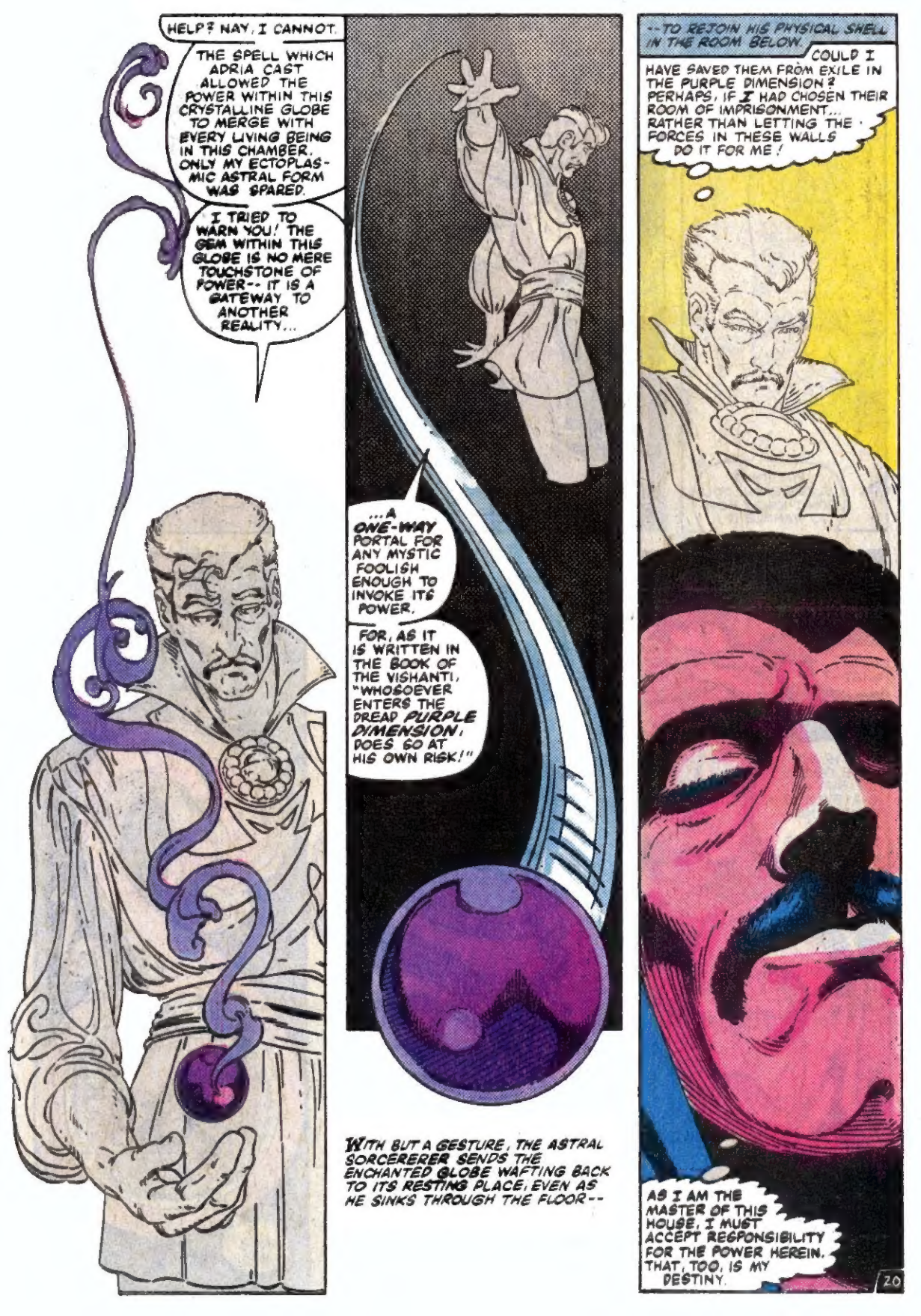
SATANNISH TAKE THE ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED THIS MAZE OF HALLS! I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR HOURS! I HOPE THESE STAIRS LEAD TO AN EXIT!
YES, THERE'S A LIGHT AHEAD. THIS MUST GO TO A REAR DOOR!
BUT ONCE THE MYSTIC CROSSES THE THRESHOLD...
OH, NO! NO!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE! SURRENDER!
15

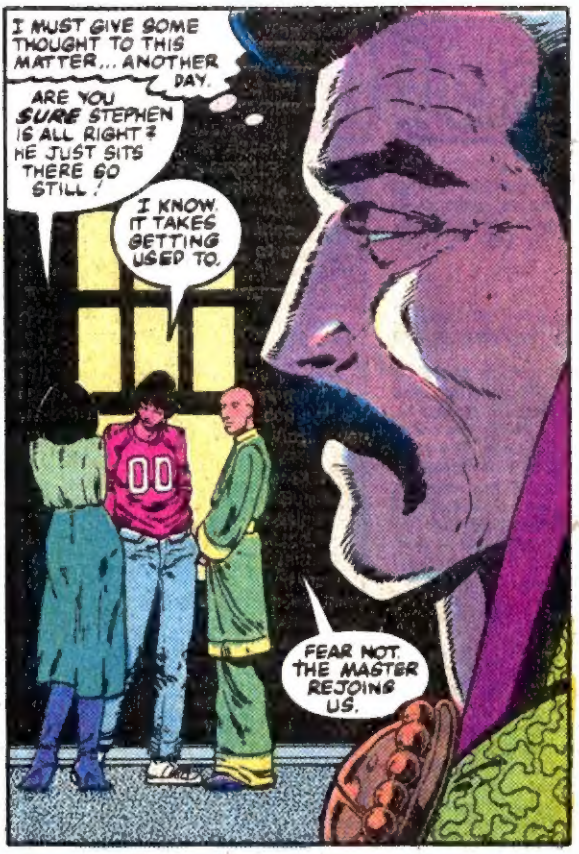
NO IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT MUST BE AN ILLUSION!
IF I RETRACE MY STEPS ... WHAT?!
THE STAIR-CASE... IT'S—
--GONE!
BY THE NAMELESS ONE! THIS IS NOT THE HALL THROUGH WHICH I FLED!
BUT HOW? HOW?!
FOOLS! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS IS STRANGE'S DOING? LOOK--EVEN NOW THE DOORWAYS DISAPPEAR!
HE SEEKS TO MAKE US HIS PRISONERS!
AYE, HE FEARS TO FACE US!
DO NOT SO FLATTER YOURSELF, DEMONICUS!
HE HAS LOOSED HIS ASTRAL FORM! GATHER 'ROUND!
IT IS WEAKER THAN HIS PHYSICAL BEING... IT CAN BE OVERCOME!
16

YES! DESTROY THE ASTRAL FORM AND THE BODY WILL WHITHER AND DIE!
ARE YOUR MEMORIES STILL SO CLOUDED, THAT YOU THINK ME AT A DISADVANTAGE?
WHEN LAST WE DID BATTLE, IT WAS MY ASTRAL FORM WHICH DEFEATED YOU THREE!*
THAT WAS BUT A MINOR SETBACK! YOUR VICTORY HAS PROVEN TO BE A HOLLOW ONE!
YOU CLOSED OUR MINDS TO THE WAYS OF MAGIC! BUT WE WERE TOO STRONG! OUR MEMORIES RETURNED!
BY DENAK!
THEY WERE MEANT TO RETURN, DEMONICUS! I GAVE YOU ALL BUT A BRIEF RESPITE FROM THE CARES OF SORCERY, HOPING THAT YOU WOULD SO GAIN THE HUMILITY AND WISDOM--
--TO USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE FOR THE GOOD. BUT INSTEAD, YOU HAVE RETURNED TO YOUR OLD WAYS.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME!
THOSE TWO BUNGLERS ARE OF NO HELP! BUT THERE IS GREAT POWER WITHIN THESE CABINETS--
--I CAN FEEL IT! PERHAPS IN HERE I WILL FIND THE POWER TO OVERCOME OUR ENEMY!
*STRANGE TALES #143.


UNBELIEVABLE! HE EVADES MY EVERY MOVE!
DEMONICUS, LOOK OUT! YOUR BOLT OF BEDEVILMENT HAS NEUTRALIZED MINE!
I AM ENJOYING THIS COMBAT FAR TOO MUCH. PLAYING CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH THEM. SUCH OVER-CONFIDENCE COULD PROVE DEADLY!
EVEN A MASTER SORCERER CAN BE STRUCK DOWN, IF HE GROWS CARELESS.
AND I AM FAR WEAKER IN MY ASTRAL STATE
BLAST! I CANNOT GET PAST HIS SHIELDS! IF ONLY SOMETHING WOULD--
"--DISTRACT HIM!"
ADRIA! GET AWAY FROM THAT CABINET!
SO, THE GOOD DOCTOR DOESN'T WANT ME POKING AROUND IN HERE, EH? PERHAPS HE'S AFRAID I'LL FIND THIS!
THE TOWER
18

NO!
PUT THAT GLOBE BACK! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT!
IF THIS BAUBLE CAN BRING SO MUCH FEAR TO YOUR VOICE, THEN IT MUST BE JUST WHAT I NEED TO STOP YOU!
AS LIGHT DOTH SHINE BOTH WEST AND EAST, PRAY, LET THIS POWER BE RELEASED.
BUT... THE GLOBE PULLS FROM MY GRASP LIKE A THING ALIVE! AND INSIDE--! BY UMAR ...NO!!
ADRIA, WHAT--?
THIS IS NO MERE SMOKE! IT'S PART OF WHATEVER IS IN THAT GLOBE-- AND IT'S PULLING US INSIDE!!
STRANGE! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! HELP US!
HELP US!
19


HELP? NAY, I CANNOT.
THE SPELL WHICH ADRIA CAST ALLOWED THE POWER WITHIN THIS CRYSTALLINE GLOBE TO MERGE WITH EVERY LIVING BEING IN THIS CHAMBER. ONLY MY ECTOPLASMIC ASTRAL FORM WAS SPARED.
I TRIED TO WARN YOU! THE GEM WITHIN THIS GLOBE IS NO MERE TOUCHSTONE OF POWER-- IT IS A GATEWAY TO ANOTHER REALITY...
...A ONE-WAY PORTAL FOR ANY MYSTIC FOOLISH ENOUGH TO INVOKE ITS POWER.
FOR, AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI, "WHOSOEVER ENTERS THE DREAD PURPLE DIMENSION, DOES SO AT HIS OWN RISK!"
WITH BUT A GESTURE, THE ASTRAL SORCERERER SENDS THE ENCHANTED GLOBE WAFTING BACK TO ITS RESTING PLACE, EVEN AS HE SINKS THROUGH THE FLOOR--
--TO REJOIN HIS PHYSICAL SHELL IN THE ROOM BELOW.
COULD I HAVE SAVED THEM FROM EXILE IN THE PURPLE DIMENSION? PERHAPS, IF I HAD CHOSEN THEIR ROOM OF IMPRISONMENT... RATHER THAN LETTING THE FORCES IN THESE WALLS DO IT FOR ME!
AS I AM THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE, I MUST ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POWER HEREIN. THAT, TOO, IS MY DESTINY.
20


I MUST GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THIS MATTER... ANOTHER DAY.
ARE YOU SURE STEPHEN IS ALL RIGHT? HE JUST SITS THERE SO STILL!
I KNOW. IT TAKES GETTING USED TO.
FEAR NOT. THE MASTER REJOINS US.

EVERYTHING COPACETIC, DOC?
YES. OUR UNWANTED GUESTS HAVE PLACED THEMSELVES BEYOND MORTAL CARE.

STEPHEN, I FEEL JUST AWFUL! THOSE... PEOPLE USED ME TO GET AT YOU... JUST AS MORDO USED ME TO GET AT YOU! # AND I WAS TAKEN IN SO EASILY!
THE INTERVIEW SOUNDED LIKE SUCH A GOOD WAY FOR ME TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER -- BUT, INSTEAD, IT PLACED YOU IN DANGER! I... OH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
MORGANA.
#DOCTOR STRANGE #50

THERE IS NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING.
BEFORE CLEA LEFT, SHE SAID THAT MY PLACE WAS WITH YOU. PERHAPS SHE WAS RIGHT ...JUST NOW I CANNOT SAY.
LOVE IS A VERY WONDERFUL GIFT, MORGANA -- A MOST PRECIOUS GIFT. I FRANKLY DO NOT KNOW IF I AM READY TO LOVE AGAIN.
BUT I AM WILLING TO BE YOUR FRIEND WILL THAT DO FOR NOW?

BOY, AM I GLAD YOU SAID THAT!
STEPHEN, I'VE BEEN SO CONFUSED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS! THE FEELINGS I'VE HAD FOR YOU HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL... AND A LITTLE FRIGHTENING! EVERYTHING'S HAPPENED SO FAST--
--I THINK I'D LIKE IT TO SLOW DOWN JUST A BIT.
YES, STARTING OVER AS FRIENDS SOUNDS VERY GOOD TO ME.
OF COURSE, YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR ME TO BE YOUR FRIEND! I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER GET USED TO THIS "JOB" OF YOURS!
BUT I'LL TRY. I PROMISE.
WE... STILL HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.
WONG?
I WILL BRING MORE TEA, MASTER!
UH... I THINK I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND, WONG!
LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE FOR A WHILE. THEY'VE BOTH BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
THAT IS SO, SARA. AND THEY WILL NO DOUBT HAVE TO ENDURE EVEN MORE IN THE DAYS AHEAD.
FOR NOW, IT IS BEST THAT THEY ENJOY THE PEACE OF THIS MOMENT.
"And as each story ends, a new one yet begins." -- Aleron the Elder.